



16591

MAY 29 2009

PUBLIC NOTICE 5-1145

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

All interested parties are notified that the Commander, Fifth Coast Guard District has received an application from the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT), for approval of the location and plans for a bridge to be constructed across a navigable waterway of the United States.

WATERWAY AND LOCATION: Cape Fear River, along State Route 1316 (Tar Heel Ferry Road) in Tar Heel, Bladen County NC.

CHARACTER OF WORK: NCDOT proposes to replace the existing two-lane Bridge No. 188 (Tar Heel Ferry Road Bridge) with three spans approximately 150-foot in length; middle span being centered on the centerline of the river; and reducing the low chord elevation by approximately two feet.

MINIMUM NAVIGATIONAL CLEARANCES:

<u>Existing</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
Vertical Clearance – 56 feet above mean high water.	Vertical Clearance – 54 feet above mean high water.
Horizontal Clearance – 300 feet between bents	Horizontal Clearance – 125 feet between bents

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS: The Federal Highway Administration has tentatively approved a Categorical Exclusion Determination, for the purposes of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance. The applicant has applied for the Water Quality Certification. The 100-year floodplain for the proposed bridge is at elevation 62 feet.

WETLANDS: Five wetland areas were located in the project area. Temporary impacts to wetland areas could possibly occur from the detour structure/route, but will be returned to a natural state at the completion of the project. Any other impacts to wetlands would be considered incidental at this time. Coordination with the US Army Corps of Engineers will take place during the permitting phase of the project.

FISH & WILDLIFE: The US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) list five plant and animal species for Bladen County NC which are protected under Section 7 and Section 9 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973: Red Cockaded Woodpecker, Short-nose Sturgeon, American

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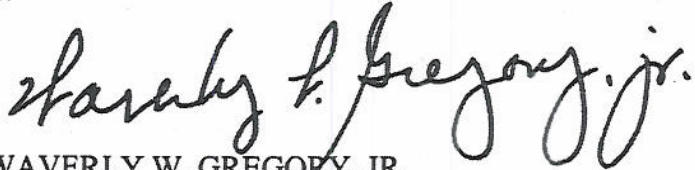
chaff seed, Pond berry, and Rough-leaved loosestrife. The project area surveys determined that neither habitat existed nor presence for each species listed, producing a biological conclusion of "No Effect" for each species. Concurrence for "No Effect" conclusions from USFWS is not required.

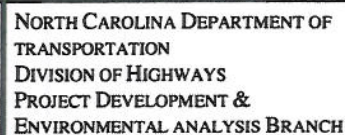
HISTORIC PROPERTIES: Coordination with North Carolina State Historic Preservation office (SHPO) determined that the Pennsylvania thru truss, constructed in 1955, is eligible for the National Register under Criteria C for Architectural and Engineering. Determination of effects is pending. No other historic structures are located within the project area or will be affected by the project. The SHPO also noted that the area was used for river based transportation and commerce during the 18th-20th century and requested the area surveyed for submerged archeological remains. A survey of the area located the remains of a wooden vessel; probably a modern barge type vessel, which was determined not eligible. Concurrence is pending approval of report.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE: Based upon environmental documentation submitted for this project, it appears that the proposed bridge project will have no adverse environmental justice impacts upon minority and low- income populations. Information and data contrary too this no-adverse-impact position should be submitted in response to this notice.

SOLICITATION OF COMMENTS: Interested parties are requested to express their views, in writing, on the replacement of the proposed bridge giving sufficient detail to establish a clear understanding of their reasons for support of or opposition to the proposed project. Comments will be received for the record at the office of the Commander (dpb), Fifth Coast Guard District, Federal Building, 431 Crawford Street, Portsmouth, VA 23704-5004 through JUN 29 2009.

Copy of location map and plan are attached.


WAVERLY W. GREGORY, JR.
Chief, Bridge Administration Branch
By direction of the Commander
Fifth Coast Guard District



BLADEN COUNTY
Replace Bridge No. 188 on SR 1316
OVER CAPE FEAR RIVER MILE 117.8
B-4712

